

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (previously cancelled).

--8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising [the steps of]:

cultivating a bacterium which has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of a DNA in cell of said bacterium, wherein said DNA coding codes for a protein as defined in the following (A) or (B):

(A) a protein which comprises an comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;

(B) a protein which comprises an amino acid sequence including deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acid in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, and which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L homoserine resistant.

9. (Previously Added) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector in said bacterium.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon ~~in said bacterium~~.

12. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein said DNA comprises nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1.

13. (New) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating a bacterium which has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein said bacterium is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia*, wherein L-homoserine resistance of said bacterium is enhanced by amplifying a copy number of a DNA in cell of said bacterium, wherein said DNA is hybridizes under stringent conditions to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said DNA is not less than 70% homologous to nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said DNA encodes a protein, which has an activity of making a bacterium having the protein L-homoserine resistant.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.

17. (New) A method for producing an amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-threonine, L-homoserine, L-alanine, L-isoleucine and L-valine, comprising:

cultivating an *Escherichia* bacterium which has been transformed with a mutant DNA, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium has an ability to produce and accumulate the amino acid, in a culture medium, and

recovering the amino acid from the medium,

wherein the mutant DNA is obtainable by mutating a DNA comprising nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO:1 and selecting a mutant DNA which, when transferred into a bacterium increases the homoserine resistance of the bacterium compared to the bacterium prior to receiving the transferred mutant DNA.

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18. (New) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of L-alanine, L-isoleucine, and L-valine.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said DNA is carried on a multicopy vector.

20. (New) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said DNA is carried on a transposon.
